



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

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Alok Bhatt

Dear Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, and esteemed members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Alok Bhatt. I serve as Legislative Analyst for the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (APAAC).

In promoting civil rights, economic viability, and quality of life in the State of Connecticut, APAAC writes in strong support of House Bill 5237: An Act Concerning Fair Chance Employment (Fair Chance Act).

As a state and as a society, we must ensure that formerly incarcerated individuals in our state are not passed over for employment because of a past for which they have paid their debts. Without a chance to reintegrate into the community, the risk of recidivism greatly increases<sup>1</sup>. To sustain its social and economic well-being, the State of Connecticut must take steps to ensure that formerly incarcerated individuals have an opportunity to find employment.

Greater employment equity signifies greater economic growth for the State of Connecticut. Furthermore, it demonstrates that we do not hold people to their past.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Alok Bhatt

*Legislative Analyst, APAAC*

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/the\\_post-release.pdf](http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/the_post-release.pdf)